

WELL HOUSE  
(Brightwood Farms)  
1009 Monroe Street  
Herndon  
Fairfax County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1386

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### WELL HOUSE

HABS No. VA-1386

Location: 1009 Monroe Street, Herndon, Fairfax County, Virginia.

Historical Data: Although no firm construction date can be applied, the Well House was built no later than 1942 when sources note at that time the well house was not working and that the Riddle family lived on the property.

In 1869 Lyman Ballou bought 165 acres in what would become the town of Herndon; Ballou sold twenty acres from this tract in 1878 to Ferdinand Stephenson who built the original portion of the house two decades later. His daughter Maltida inherited the property in 1906. By 1970 the twenty acres had been reduced to one. On the property is the main house, begun in 1898 and added onto over the years, the well house, a two-car garage with shop space and overhead storage, and a storage shed built in 2002. The shed is attached to the rear of the garage.

#### Architectural Description:

Exterior: The well house at 1009 Monroe Street, occupying a rectangular footprint measuring 24'8" x 8'6", is a humble brick structure that sits on a brick foundation. It is oriented longitudinally on a north-south axis, with the main door in the center of its east elevation and an opposing door on the west elevation. While the present one-acre property's western boundary lies just several feet beyond the well house, its earlier agricultural incarnation as part of a twenty-acre farm until subdivision in 1970 hints at the logic behind the building's plan. Because the narrow property stretched back from the road and house, most of it would have sat behind the well house, necessitating fenestration on the west elevation to allow for irrigation pipe or hand-hauling of water without having to pass back and around the structure.

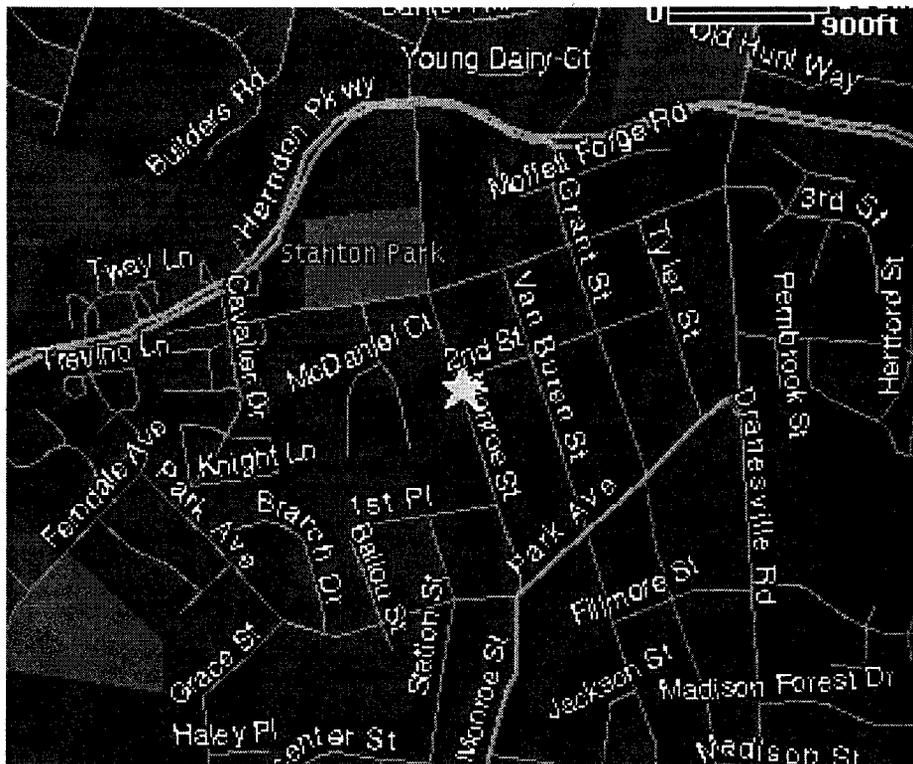
A 2" x 4" common rafter, gable roof has been recovered with three-tab asphalt shingles, and the building features two fixed windows, four top-hinged awning windows, and two rail-and-stile doors with recessed panels and glass in-fill. Since its construction, the well house has seen the addition of a poured concrete floor and the installation of gypsum wallboard nailed directly to the rafter ceiling. Both the interior and exterior were skim-coated with concrete at some point in the building's history, rendering much of the brick wall construction beneath inaccessible. This is unfortunate given a confounding

discrepancy in wall thickness: the north and south walls measure 7" while the east and west walls measure 9" thick.

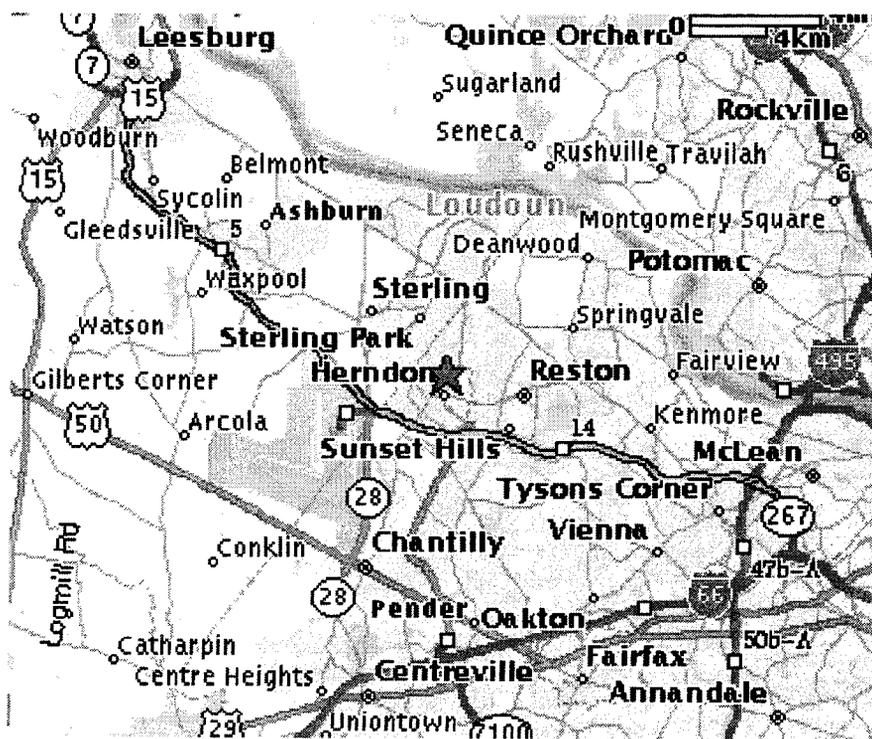
Close examination of the foundation around the perimeter also reveals a small section of *c.m.u.* block, suggesting foundation repairs around the time the floor was poured.

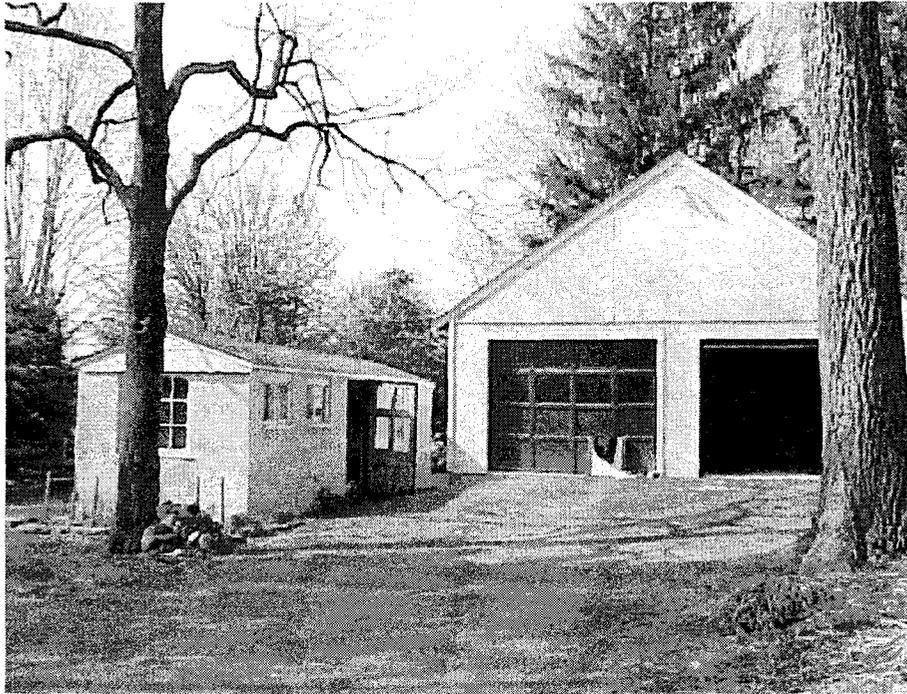
Historian(s): Mike Yengling, May 2003.

Project Information: The documentation of the well house took place as part of Louis Nelson's (2003) field methods class at the University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Architectural History. Students recorded various structures through measured drawings and written description; the record the students created was dependent on their ability to read what the structure was telling them about its construction history rather than on traditional documentary research.



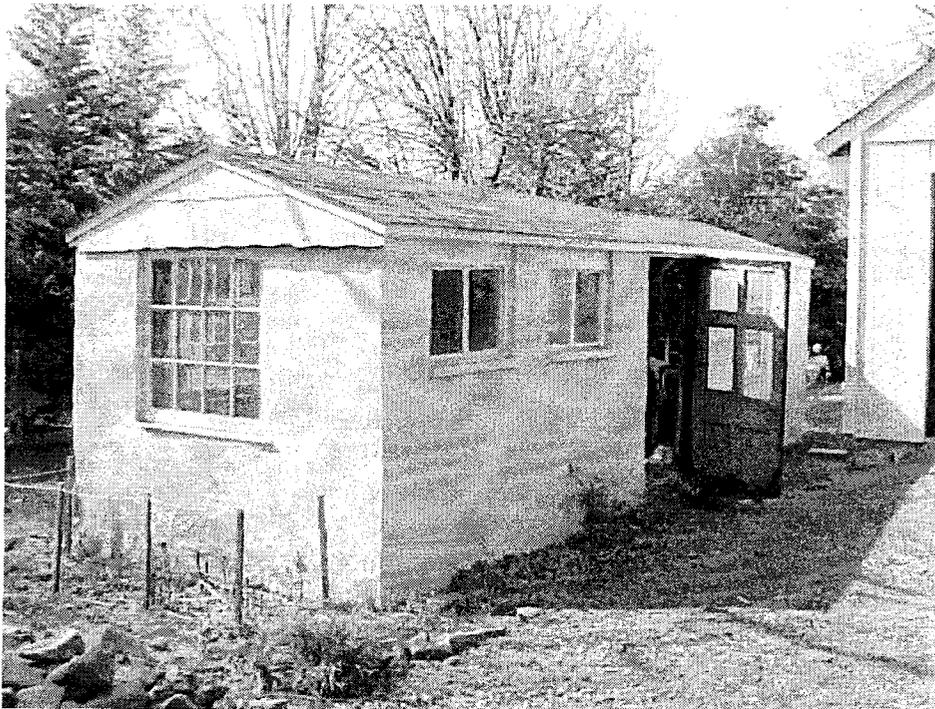
*Illustration 1. A (above): Street map indicating the location of the project site at 1009 Monroe Street, in the town of Herndon, Virginia. B (below): Smaller-scale map showing the town of Herndon and its relationship to major northern Virginia transportation corridors: Route 15, I-495 (the Washington beltway), and Interstate 66.*

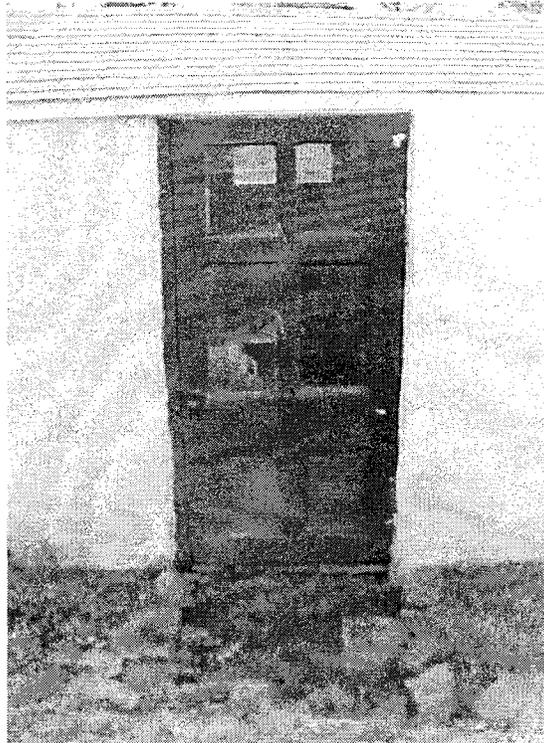




*Above: Looking north towards the well house (left) and a later addition to the property, a 2-bay garage with overhead storage space.*

*Below: A closer view of the well house itself, showing south elevation 12-pane awning window, two fixed windows on the east elevation, and main entry door.*





*Above: Main door to structure, located in the center of the east elevation. Note the change in surrounding grade, resulting in step-down entrance with small stone retaining barrier. Below: Looking through the main door (open) to the opposing door on the west elevation.*

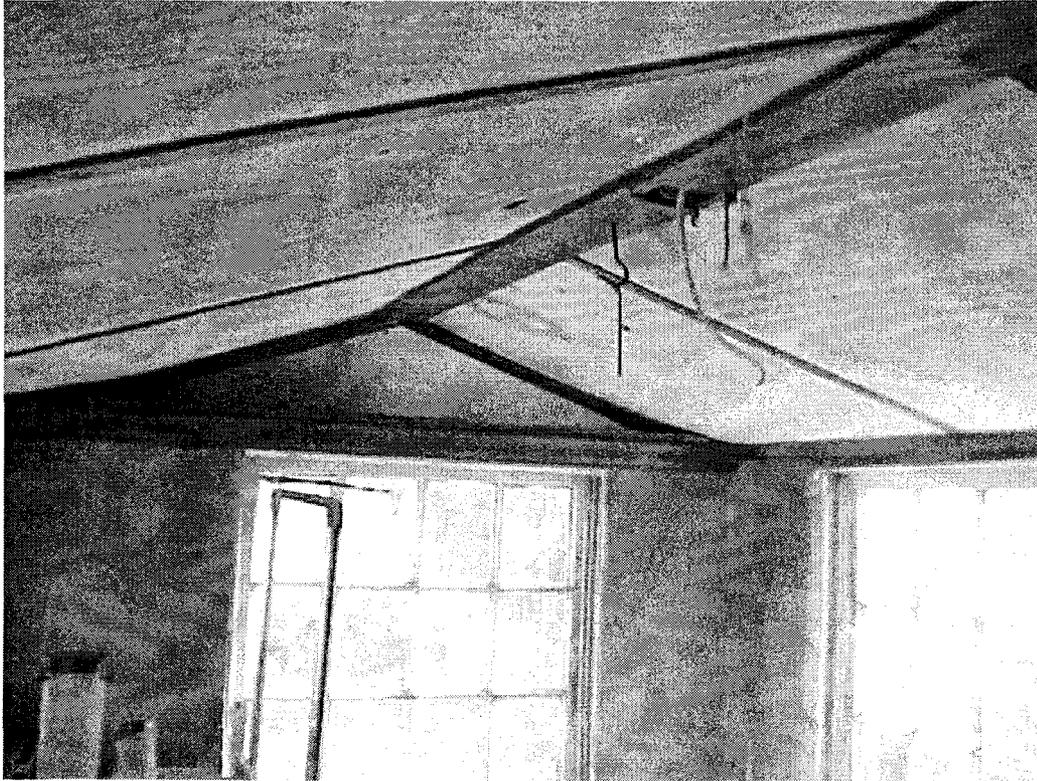




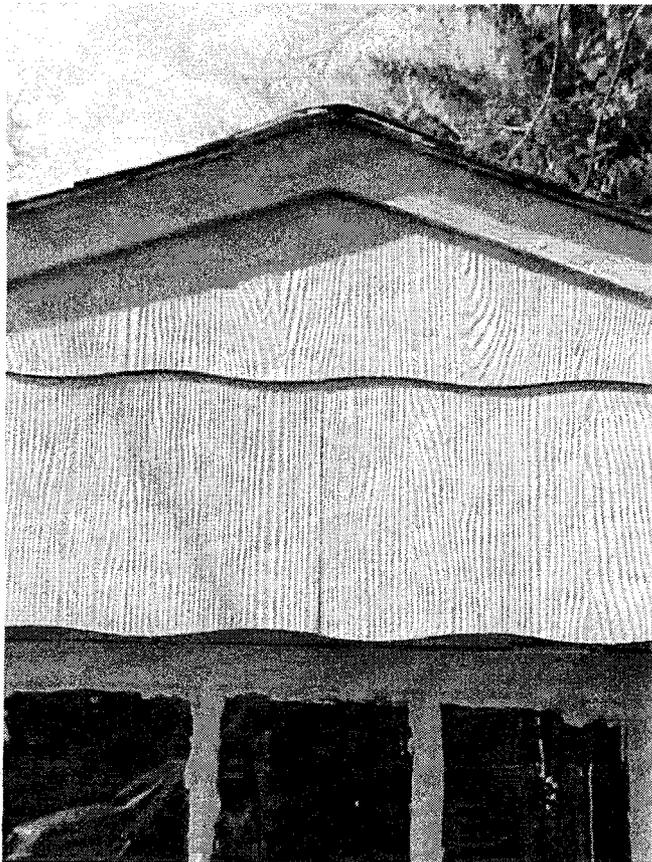
*Above: Threshold at main door, revealing poured concrete floor and brick foundation.*

*Below: Detail at lower left-hand corner of main entry door, with concrete parge over exterior brick wall and evidence of brick foundation beneath.*





*Above: Interior shot of roof and ceiling system, consisting of common rafters covered with sheetrock. Joints and nail holes are hidden with 1/4" thick screen bead trim pieces.*



*Left: South elevation eave detail. Asbestos shingles ornament the gable beneath the rake boards on this shallow-sloped (4/12) roof.*



***Door details.***

***Above: Interior hinge and jam detail from front door.***

***Below: Exterior hinge detail from front door.***

